



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Army Corps of Engineers announces boat ramp closures at Waco Lake due to drought conditions

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Waco Lake announce boat ramp closures at Twin Bridges Day Use Area and the front boat ramp at Reynolds Creek Park. The lack of rainfall in central Texas has caused significant drops in lake levels. Waco Lake is currently 6.74 feet below normal pool, and this low level has forced the Corps of Engineers at Waco Lake to close the boat ramps to ensure public safety.

Due to the current rate of water level drop Airport Beach and Airport Campground boat ramps will close effective Monday, October 3, 2011.

At this time, the other boat ramps still remain open at Waco Lake.

Changing lake levels also bring new hazards to boaters. At Waco Lake drought conditions have brought submerged hazards close to or above the water's surface. The prudent boat operator must remain vigilant at all times and keep a proper lookout for such hazards.

Statistics show that 95% of drowning victims were not wearing personal flotation devices, which could have saved their lives. Many drowning victims never expected to be in the water, and most drown within 10 to 30 feet of safety.

Since drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death in the United States, every member of the family should learn not only to swim but how to swim well. Even good swimmers should never swim alone and then only in designated areas because it is difficult to gauge the bottom of a lake. A life jacket should be worn by all who are in or near the water because lakes are not like swimming pools where you have a known water depth.

For more information please contact Ranger Randall McCartney at the Waco Lake Project Office at (254) 756-5359.

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About the Fort Worth District: The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was established in 1950. The District is responsible for water resources development in two-thirds of Texas, and design and construction at military installations in Texas and parts of Louisiana and New Mexico. Visit the Fort Worth District Web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil and SWF Face book at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fort-Worth-District-US-Army-Corps-of-Engineers/188083711219308>